

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:LLC
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067619

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MO MASS OVIP (KING HASSAN II)

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FONMIN BOUCETTA'S DEPARTURE: SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AND KING'S VISIT

1. AT AIRPORT ON MARCH 16 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN
MINISTER BOUCETTA, DEP ASST SEC VELIOTES HAD OCCASION TO
REVIEW BOUCETTA'S VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND
AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN. BOUCETTA EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE
FOR SECRETARY HAVING DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO HIM OVER
WEEKEND. HE ALSO WAS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR COLLECTIVE
EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT HE AND BENGELLOUN CLEARLY UNDER-
STOOD POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL
ATTITUDES RE USE OF U.S. ARMS IN THE SAHARA. WHILE
CONTINUING TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS
THIS PROBLEM, BOUCETTA EMPHASIZED NEED NOT TO DWELL ON
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR ALREADY GOOD
RELATIONS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 067619

2. IN CONTEXT THIS DISCUSSION, VELIOTES MENTIONED THE
AMENDMENT BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIGGS SUBCOMMITTEE
WHICH WOULD BAN ALL U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO
SHOULD MOROCCANS FAIL TO AGREE BY SEPTEMBER 30 NOT TO

USE SUCH ASSISTANCE IN SAHARA. HE EXPLAINED TO FOREIGN

MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR THAT WE WERE ARGUING AGAINST SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE AMENDMENT BUT THIS POSSIBLE ACTION JUST SERVED TO EMPHASIZE NATURE OF PROBLEMS ON THE HILL.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BENGELLOUN AFTER DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER, VELIOTES EMPHASIZED FOR HIM IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS FOR MOROCCO TO REDEPLOY F-5S FROM MAURITANIA AND THE SAHARA BACK TO MOROCCO PROPER. HE NOTED WE WOULD HOPE THAT MOROCCO WOULD DO THIS QUIETLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITHOUT OUR HAVING AGAIN TO RAISE ISSUE. BENGELLOUN, WHO WAS QUITE TAKEN ABACK BY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD PERSONALLY TAKE UP THIS ISSUE WITH THE KING. WE HAVE SENT BENGELLOUN A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

4. BENGELLOUN NOTED IMPORTANCE KING PERSONALLY ATTACHED TO RECEIVING EARLY INVITATION FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF DAY WORKING VISIT. BENGELLOUN SAID THIS WOULD BE AN "IN AND OUT" PROPOSITION. KING WAS OBVIOUSLY HOPING HE WOULD BE INVITED IN APRIL ALTHOUGH BENGELLOUN PERSONALLY THOUGHT KING WOULD ALSO BE VERY PLEASED BY INVITATION IN MAY. VELIOTES ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD FOLLOW THIS MATTER UP WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.
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